



NOAA Teacher at Sea
Karolyn Braun
Onboard NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA
October 6 – 28, 2006

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Karolyn Braun
NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA
Mission: TAO Buoy Array Maintenance
Thursday, October 12, 2006

Science and Technology Log

Plan of the Day:

100 CTD and AOML 3N/155W

500 CTD Profile 2.5N/155W

900 Recover and Deploy TAO
CTD 2N/155W

2200 CTD Profile

What a fabulous night sky!
More stars than expected and the
ocean is flat and smooth, a small
swell of 2ft.

Well I didn't attend the 1 a.m.
CTD, but I did do the 5 a.m.
CTD profile. I was half asleep;
I completed the preparation, the
cast and the recovery with no
worries, but forgot some steps, so I am thankful that the Chief Scientist was awake to
remind me. A BIG Fa'afetai Lava ("Thank you" in Samoan) to you Patrick. After the
CTD we ate breakfast; I have never had such an assortment of food for breakfast since
college, only here the food is better! Hats off to our two cooks, Carrie and Don. They
are in the kitchen all day to provide the crew with balanced and healthy meals.



TAS Braun assists in recovering spools of line for a buoy.

We arrived at the TAO buoy around 9 a.m. and sent a team out on the RHIB to connect to the buoy and drag it to the stern (back of the ship). The sun was out, there was very little cloud cover and the ocean was still very calm. It was beautiful enough just watching over the side of the ship, but while they were bringing it in we saw whales off in the distance. The buoy was recovered, and all hands were back onboard so the spooling began (see photo). Before anything else could happen, we had a man-overboard drill. I definitely feel safe on the ship as the crew is prepared for anything in a moment's notice!

After 8 spools of line were recovered, the new buoy could then be set up and released. If a line needed repairing, it got spliced together; if not, the 8 spools got reconnected and fed into the ocean. At the end of the last line, a huge anchor was attached, and it sank

into the ocean to finish the job (around 5 p.m.). A CTD was completed and everyone was pretty exhausted and ready for a shower and good meal and sleep—not necessarily in that order.